

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Pete Stark, Senior Democrat on the Joint Economic Committee, today warned that workers in California continue to be hurt by the failed economic policies of the Bush Administration. Rep. Stark expressed disappointment that California has lost 363,000 jobs since President Bush came into office in January 2001, based on new Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released on Friday, July 18th.

People around the country are also feeling the effects of Bush's failed economic policies. Nationwide, the unemployment rate is 6.4 percent – the highest unemployment rate in nearly a decade. Since President Bush took office more than 3 million private sector jobs have been lost, and the nation is now \$3 trillion further in debt. The unemployment rate in California is now at 6.7 percent – 0.3 percentage points higher than the national average and two percentage points higher than at the start of the Bush Administration.

“The new unemployment data for California show that the recession is not over for workers,” said Rep. Stark. “Jobs in this country are as scarce as weapons of mass destruction are in Iraq. The Administration is headed for a new record of job losses and the Bush deficits are going to make it hard for the economy to grow fast enough to bring unemployment down.”

In addition to the more than 3 million jobs lost nation wide, the weak job market is increasing the length of the average job search. The average job search is now 19.6 weeks, or nearly five months; in January 2001 the average job search was 12.6 weeks. With an estimated three unemployed workers for every job available, the average unemployed worker has applied for 29 different jobs.